

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 FEA-01 CIEP-01 AID-10 NSC-07

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, US, UY, VE

SUBJ: OFFICIAL URUGUAYAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD'S
SPEECH TO WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE

1. WHEN I CALLED UPON ACTING FONMIN GUIDO MICHELIN ON
SEPTEMBER 27 TO DISCUSS ANOTHER SUBJECT, HE RAISED WITH
ME PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH TO THE WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE.

2. MINISTER MICHELIN SAID THAT HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT
THE GOU "WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH" THE POSITION TAKEN BY
PRESIDENT FORD IN HIS SPEECH WITH RESPECT TO THE PROBLEMS
ARISING FROM THE WORLD ENERGY CRISIS. HE ADDED THAT HE
HAD DISCUSSED THE SPEECH AND THE GENERAL SUBJECT WITH
PRESIDENT BORDABERRY A FEW DAYS AGO, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT
WAS THINKING ABOUT MAKING A STATEMENT OF HIS OWN. HE SAID
THAT, AS WE KNOW, THE ISSUES ARISING FROM THE WORLD ENERGY
CRISIS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE IN
URUGUAY, NOT ONLY AS AN UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRY, BUT ALSO
AS ONE HIT MOST HARSHLY BY THE CRISIS.

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3. MINISTER MICHELIN ALSO EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE

ANNOYANCE AND EVEN IRRITATION WITH THE PUBLIC STATEMENT
MADE BY PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA. HE SAID HE COULD
UNDERSTAND VENEZUELA'S REACTION AS AN OIL-PRODUCING NATION,
BUT HE CHALLENGED VENEZUELA'S RIGHT TO SOUND AND ACT AS
IF IT WERE THE SPOKESMAN OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD WHICH
OF COURSE INCLUDED URUGUAY. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED
HIS REMARKS WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO ME AND TO THE USG
SINCE HE FELT THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH HAD BEEN
SUBJECTED TO MISINTERPRETATION AND DISTORTION IN VARIOUS
QUARTERS.
HAAHR

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